

FIELD TRIPS OF THE CLUB

TRIP OF JUNE 16-19 TO LANCASTER, PA.

The Muhlenberg Botanical Club of Lancaster entertained members of three other botanical societies during this four day meeting. Seven members of the Torrey Club were among the thirty-five attending. From the "Willows," a tourist camp just east of Lancaster, the party on Thursday visited points of historic interest in Lancaster, including the birthplace of Henry E. Muhlenberg and a massive buttonwood near Rohers-town—the largest tree in Pennsylvania. Several limestone localities were visited for their interesting plants, including Scott's Spleenwort, Rue Spleenwort and a fine stand of Smooth Cliff Brake growing on an old limestone bridge. Both the Smooth and the Purple Cliff Brakes grew close together in the mortar joints, affording an excellent opportunity to compare them.

In the evening Prof. Herbert H. Beck read an interesting paper on Muhlenberg the Botanist. This was followed by an informal talk by Dr. Edgar Wherry on the geology and plant associations of the areas which the group was to visit.

On Friday a visit was made to Bush River, Md., stopping several times along the way to explore localities of interest. The white spikes of *Aletris farinosa* were conspicuous at many points along the road. Two stations for Adder's Tongue fern were visited near Bush River. The high point of the day was the finding along the tidal shores of the river of *Isoetes saccharata*, *Lilaeopsis chinensis* and *Eriocaulon parkeri*, growing together at low tide level.

Saturday the serpentine barrens in southern Lancaster County were visited for their peculiar associations. One of the most interesting of the plants limited to serpentine rocks was the small *Talinum teretifolium* growing in the fields. Another interesting plant was *Cerastium arvense* var. *villossimum*. Other plants noted because of being in fine bloom were Goat's Rue in large masses, *Lobelia spicata* and *Campanula rotundifolia*. A side trip was made to nearby Maryland to see the Hairy Lip fern.

On Sunday an entirely different habitat was visited in northern Lancaster County, rich woodland and sphagnum bogs. One open bog was pink with Rose Pogonia. Other plants observed

were *Calopogon*, *Habenaria lacera*, *Liparis liliafolia*, *Arisaema stewardsonii*, *Thalictrum revolutum*, and *Oxybaphus nyctagineus*.

W. L. HIGHTON

TRIP OF JULY 9 TO THE WORLD'S FAIR REGION

Of the approximately 1,000 species of wild plants within the city limits of New York exclusive of Staten Island, little less than $\frac{1}{3}$ were noted in our trip to Corona and Flushing, by actual count 318. One hundred eighty-three of the total are regarded as native to the United States and 135 as adventive. Defining families and genera as in the *Illustrated Flora*, we examined 69 of the former and 198 of the latter.

We observed that within two years the alteration of this area will be complete. If not completely destroyed, the colonies of plants that flourished during the Age of the Meadows, a long time ago (1936), now are reduced to a few stray ditch dwellers that are neighbors to the steam shovel. We found no trace of *Guizotia abyssinica* that bloomed yesteryear, a composite (Helianthoideae) taller than one meter, many branched, with the appearance of an over robust *Bidens cernua*. *Solanum villosum* was covered with ashes simultaneously with the good fruiting *Sesamum indicum* and *Conium maculatum*. *Carduus nutans*, with its carmine centered nodding flower-buds, is out of our area, if not, as yet, from the city. Astoria still boasts many colonies of *Allionia nyctaginea*, but we failed to see this umbrellawort in Flushing; nor did we mourn the loss of *Bassia hyssopifolia*, since it is common in other regions. But our showy *Verbena stricta*, whose progress of inflorescence flared up the spike like blue flame, where else in the city can we find it? Our two undescribed *Helianthus* and *Liatris scariosa* may still be alive but we did not encounter them. The tall alyssum-fragrant *Lepidium latifolium* and chicory-blue *Lactuca pulchella*, though still plentiful, will now see their last hour any day. *Cycloloma atriplicifolium* is common on the south coast of Long Island, thus when the few remaining specimens in the area under consideration are obliterated we can still continue for several years to regard it as a member of our city flora; this is also true of *Plantago arenarea* and *Hieracium florentinum* which are now common in New York. This negative aspect of ours, the most important,

certainly demonstrated that if you think of writing a good list of the plants within the city limits of New York, be quick about it friend! And such a catalogue should be valuable, since no detail is trivial about the greatest metropolis.

I submit a few notes on the identification of weeds: an herbarium is essential for any degree of certainty in determination, for plants not in manuals are frequently collected which key out adroitly enough and are described accurately enough in your book as some species which, though nearest to it in your flora, is not that being analyzed, as a comparison with herbarium material will prove. As should be expected, many weeds not in manuals are escapes from cultivation, so that Bailey's *Cyclopedia* may be consulted with profit. Coste's *Flore de la France*, accurately illustrated, describes plants from regions that contribute many weeds to our area, so that a reference to this work may solve the identification, as it did that of *Lepidium latifolium*. If the genus of your weed is not known, nor easily discovered in Britton's, Bailey's, or Coste's, then you may have to study Bentham and Hooker's monumental *Genera Plantarum* or Engler and Prantl's *Pflanzenfamilien*. Then, as the unfamiliar genus is likely to contain but few species, go directly to the herbarium for comparison. Should it chance that it is represented by many members, try a monograph, if there is one; if not, try to match it by diligent examination of every species in the herbarium. Failing in this, and not knowing any expert on the group to whom you can send a duplicate for determination, it's advisable to declare the specimen "a foreign plot" and forget about it.

JOSEPH MONACHINO

TRIP OF SEPTEMBER 25 TO WATCHUNG, N. J.

Fifty-eight members and guests were present. An excellent representation of the early autumn vegetation of this region was seen and those members who had been on spring and summer trips over the same trails were able to compare the lists of species observed then with those in evidence now. Many plants, of course, were in fruit, including wonderful specimens of flowering-dogwood, as well as *Viburnum acerifolium*, *Arisaema triphyllum*, *Smilacina racemosa*, *Phryma leptostachya*, *Circaea latifolia*, *Angelica villosa*, and *Mitchella repens*. A splendid

colony of *Lespedeza frutescens* was found, as well as many specimens of *L. capitata* and *L. procumbens*. Tick-trefoils were much in evidence and were compared in their past-flowering stages—*Desmodium rotundifolium*, *D. canescens*, *D. ciliare*, *D. paniculatum*, *D. nudiflorum*, and *D. grandiflorum*. Eight species of goldenrod were seen in abundance: three species (*Solidago juncea*, *S. canadensis*, and *Euthamia graminifolia*) were already in fruit, while five others were in full anthesis (*Solidago rugosa*, *S. caesia*, *S. bicolor*, *S. nemoralis*, and *S. altissima*). The horse-balm (*Collinsonia canadensis*) was perhaps the most conspicuous plant in the woodlands, where also *Eupatorium urticaefolium*, *Carya alba*, and *Monotropa uniflora* were in evidence, with *Nyssa sylvatica*, *Rhus glabra*, *R. copallinum*, *Ilex verticillata*, and *Parthenocissus quinquefolia* conspicuous because of their brilliant foliage. The witch-hazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*) was found in flower, as well as *Lobelia siphilitica*, *L. inflata*, *Helianthus tuberosus*, and *Gerardia purpurea*. Glorious stands of fringed gentians were come upon unexpectedly in full flower and colonies of *Liatris spicata* in fruit. Some sneezeweed (*Helenium autumnale*) was still in flower and an introduced sunflower, *Helianthus laetiflorus*, made a splendid showing. Conspicuous grasses included *Sorghastrum nutans*, *Muhlenbergia schreberi*, *Leersia virginica*, *L. oryzoides*, *Andropogon scoparius*, *Paspalum laeve*, *P. setaceum*, *Agrostis alba*, and *Echinochloa crusgalli*. Many asters were at their prime, including *Aster puniceus* and *A. novae-angliae* in wet places: *A. lateriflorus*, *A. laevis*, and *A. vimineus* in grassy fields; *A. ericoides* and *A. multiflorus* in dry soil; and *A. cordifolius*, *A. divaricatus*, *A. macrophyllus*, and *A. undulatus* in the woodlands. Other interesting plants observed were *Eupatorium perfoliatum* and *Sparganium eurocarpum* in fruit, *Tracaulon sagittatum*, *Spiranthes cernua*, *Bidens leavis*, and *Geaster hygrometricus*.

H. N. MOLDENKE